Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel pending claims 1 through 31.

32. (New) Battery-powered handpiece, comprising a sensing contact for detecting current flow between a first charging contact, for connection to a first contact of a battery, and a second charging contact, for connection to a second contact of a battery.

33. (New) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, further comprising a magnet co-operating with a magnetically activatable switch arranged in a charger device, for initiating a charging operation once the battery-powered handpiece is electrically connected to said charger device.

34. (New) Battery powered handpiece according to claim 33, wherein said magnet is arranged in proximity to the housing of the handpiece.

35. (New) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, further comprising a diode located between said first charging contact and said first contact of said battery for allowing charging current to flow from said first charging contact into said battery but preventing current flow in opposite direction.

36. (New) Charger device for a battery-powered handpiece, comprising a sensing pin detecting current flow between a first charging pin and a second charging pin.

37. (New) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising a warning means for giving a warning signal if current flow between said first and second charging pins is sensed by said sensing pin.

38. (New) Charger device according to claim 37, wherein said warning means provides an acoustic and/or optical warning.

39. (New) Charger device according to claim 36, wherein said sensing pin of said charger device is in contact with a sensing pin at said handpiece if said handpiece

is connected to the charger device so that said sensing pin at said charger device further detects current flow between said first and second charging contacts of said handpiece, said current flow having a potential for initiating an electrochemical reaction.

40. (New) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising an electronic switch connected to said sensing pins of said charger device for disconnecting a charging voltage applied to said first and second charging pins if current flow is sensed by said sensing pin.

41. (New) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising a detector for detecting the presence or absence of said battery-powered handpiece and a switch for switching on/off the charging voltage dependent on detection of the presence/absence of said handpiece.

42. (New) Charger device according to claim 41, wherein said switch is selected from the group comprising mechanical switches, optical switches, electro-mechanical switches, electro-optical switches or magnetic switches.

43. (New) Charger device according to claim 42, wherein the magnetic switch comprises a magnetically activatable switch being operable in response to a magnet arranged in said handpiece.

44. (New) Charger device according to claim 43, wherein said magnetically activatable switch comprises a Reed switch.

45. (New) Charger device according to claim 41, said switch allowing a charging voltage to be applied to said charging pins in the presence of said handpiece.

46. (New) In combination, a battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32 and a charger device according to claim 36.

47. (New) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, wherein said handpiece is a dental tool.

48. (New) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 47, wherein said dental tool is dental curing light.

49. (New) Charger device according to claim 36 adapted for use with a dental tool.

50. (New) Charger device according to claim 49, wherein said dental tool is dental curing light.